

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

## UMHC STROKE EDUCATION TEAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD

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JACKSON, Miss. – The National Stroke Association selected the University of Mississippi Health Care Multidisciplinary Team as a recipient of the inaugural Raising Awareness In Stroke Excellence (RAISE) Award. The UMHC team, recognized as Outstanding Group, was one of six winners to be honored for their commitment to stroke education.

The RAISE Award program was established in 2011 to give national recognition to individuals and groups who have exhibited commitment and innovation towards stroke awareness efforts. The winners accepted the awards Oct. 28 at the Museum of Nature and Science in Denver, Colo.

The multidisciplinary team consists of UMHC administrators, nurses, physical therapists and others serving to educate the metro Jackson area on how to best detect a stroke, and the various risk factors associated with stroke. Over the past year, the team has been responsible for performing risk assessments and educating more than 6,000 people through community outreach activities.

Kim Stonecypher, clinical director for adult services at University of Mississippi Medical Center, described the award as “a well deserved national recognition for the tremendous work that occurred both internally and externally of the team.”

“We have participated in many health fairs and community projects throughout the state. We provided stroke screening and assessments, as well as educating people about prevention methods and how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a stroke,” said Stonecypher.

Actress Susan Lucci and “Happy Days” star, Henry Winkler, were among the six winners honored by the RAISE awards. They were recognized in the Best Media spokesperson category for their visual contributions to stroke education and awareness.

“There is no doubt that raising stroke awareness is one of the most important ways to make an impact on stroke no matter the reach or type of effort being made,” said National Stroke Association CEO, Jim Baranski, in a written statement.

“We want to help these individuals and groups stay motivated about raising awareness all year long. We want to give back to them, because they are the winning recipe for how we build a committed community of people devoted to raising stroke awareness.”

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://publicaffairs.umc.edu/>